

~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~

--DEFAULT--

CATEGORY = 2

M = 149

MESSAGE = 03175731

ZCZCDABW18357H4A997

DD [REDACTED] DE

66 11/16/82 HCV

ZKZK OD HINH ILR HRL DEO

1116477 ZYH

FM [REDACTED] TO [REDACTED] NOVEMBER ALFA ZEX ~~SECRET~~ SAINON ONE OF TWO ISHTAR

24 VCK/R28-65 FOLLOW-UP NOVEMBER ONE AND FINAL TO USA-32 SPOT REPORT

24113/VCK/5. H08408Z AND USA-57 SPOT REPORT 24113/VCK/ R118-65, H08355Z NOVEMBER

1965 ACD FOLLOW-UPS THERETO DRV MIGS DOWN ELICHOPTER ON 6 NOVEMBER. AT 0345 ON 6

NOVEMBER, NON-COMINT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO SILVER DAWN REVEALED THAT

ONABLE U.S. AIRCRAFT WAS DOWNED OVER THE DRV SOMETIME PRIOR TO 0330 ON

THATDATE. THE EXACT LOCATION OF THE SHOOTDOWN WAS NOT DISCLOSED. HOWEVER, OTHER

AVAILABLE NON-COMINT INFORMATION INDICATES THAT A U.S. A1E FIGHTER WAS SHOTDOWN

UND FIRE AT 19-54N 105-08E (10 NAUTICAL MILES NORTHWEST OF THANH HOA) AT 0342, A

U.S. HELICOPTER REPORTEDLY WASE AT 20-29N 105-27E (MIDWAY BETWEEN PHU LY AND

HOI XUAN) AT 0510. AND A U.S. A1E FIGHTER WAS LATER LISTED AS SING AT POSITION

20-30N 105-33E (22 NAUTICAL MILES WEST OF PHU LY). A REVIEW OF ALL AVAILABLE

COMINT INFORMATION REVEALS NO INFORMATION RELATED TO THE SHOOTDOWN PRIOR TO 0330 OR

THE A1E SHOOTDOWN AT 0342. HOWEVER, BEGINNING A AND CONTINUING UNTIL 1254 ON 6

NOVEMBER, [REDACTED] AND DRV AIR WARNING FACILITIES REFLECTED A TOTAL OF AT

LEAST 1-10 BY PROBABLE DRV MIGS EITHER INTO OR WITHIN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO

THE AREAS IN WHICH THE HELICOPTER AND SECOND A1E WERE DOWNED. ADDITIONALLY,

BETWEEN 0345 AND 0751, AIR WARNING FACILITIES REFLECTED FOUR FLIGHTS CONS OF

POSSIBLY AS MANY AS 9 U.S. AIRCRAFT ACTIVE IN OR PROCEEDING INTO THE AREA OF

THE SHOOTDOWNS (AND THE AREAS IN WHICH THE MIGS WERE ALSO OPERATING). A REVIEW OF ALL

AVAILABLE DRV TACTICAL VOICE COMMUNICATIONS REVEALS THAT AT SIX MIGS WEE

ACTIVE WITHIN THE SHOOTDOWN AREA BETWEEN 0351 AND 0544, AND IT IS APPAR- ENT

THAT AT LEAST F THESE AIRCRAFT WERE ENGAGED IN VALID GROUND CONTROLLED

INTERCEPTS AGAINST A FLIGHT OF THREE HOSTILE (U.S.) AIRCRAFT PROBABLY ENGAGED IN

SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS IN AN AREA APPROXIMATELY MID-WAY BETWEEN HOA BINH

AND PHU LY B 0350 AND 0500 AND A FLIGHT OF TWO OR THREE HOSTILE AIRCRAFT

OPERATING IN THE SAME AREA DURING THE 0500 HOUR LATTER FLIGHT APPEARS TO HAE

CONSISTED OF AT LEAST ONE U.S. HELICOPTER WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY SHOT DOWN BY

ONE MIGS AT 0535 AT 20-33N 105-38E (15 NAUTICAL MILES WEST OF PHU LY). THE

TIME OF THE SHOOTDOWN AND THE TO COMPARE FAVORABLY WITH THAT REPORTED IN THE

COLLATERAL INFORMATION FOR THE DOWNED HELICOPTER. NO AIR WARNING REFLECTIONS WERE

A1E- ABLE WHICH CAN BE CORRELATED WITH THE DOWNING OF THE SECOND A1E AIRCRAFT,

BUT IT IS SIGNIF TO NOTE THAT HOSTILE AIRCRAFT WERE SPORADICALLY REFLECTED

DURING THE PERIOD 0345 TO 0751 OPERATING IN THE GENERAL WHERE IT DIS- APPEARED.

ONE FLIGHT OF PROBABLE U.S. AIRCRAFT WAS NOTED DEPARTING THE GULF OF TONKIN AND

PING INTO THIS AREA BETWEEN 0720 AND 0751. HOWEVER, THE SLOW SPEED OF THE AIR-

CRAFT SUGGESTS THAT THE AIRCRAFT E BEEN A HELICOPTER(S). OTHER THAN THE

REFLECTIONS OF THE HELICOPTER SHOOTDOWN, THERE WERE NO INDICATIONS INT THAT ANY

OTHER AIR ENGAGEMENTS ENSUED OR THAT ANY OTHER U.S. AIRCRAFT WERE DOWNED BY DRV

MIGS. THE FOLLOWING GENERAL RESUME OF THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY NOTED ON 06

NOVEMBER. THE FIRST ATTEMPT TO INTERCEPT U.S. AND RES- CUE AIRCRAFT APPARENTLY

OCCURRED BETWEEN 0340 AND 0425 WHEN DRV AIR WARNING FACILITIES REFLECTED TWO FOF

AT LEAST FIVE DRV MIGS FLYING FROM THE IMMEDIATE PHUC YEN AREA TO VPAH AREA OVER

THE MOUNTAINS MID-WAY BETH HOA BINH AND PHU LY. THE MIGS BROADLY CIRCLED THIS

AREA AND RETURNED TO THE PHUC YEN AREA AT ABOUT 0420. DURING SAME PERIOD OF

(b) (1)

(b) (3)-18 USC 798

(b) (3)-50 USC 403

*Ref #s 185 + 187 Bolstad**2x A1E's down on 6 Nov but both downed after 0330Z**CH3C down Ref # 186**CORMIER,**[Signature]**Single ten*

(b) (1)

(b) (3)-50 USC 403

(b) (3)-18 USC 798

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~

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Approved for release by
NSA on 05-08-2014,
Transparency Case# 65886980023-2-3-4957
-4957-0185
0186
0187

187

DOCID: 4117308 ~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~ --DEFAULT--

TIME, ONE FLIGHT OF THREE HOSTILE AIR- CRAFT, FLYING AT APPROXIMATELY 283 KNOTS, WAS APPARENTLY INVOLVED IN SEARCH OPERATIONS WITHIN A SQUARE AREA BOUND- ED BY COORDINATES 23-52N 105-32E BY 20-52N 105-42E BY 2105-32E BY 20-41N 105-42E. THE U.S. AIRCRAFT WERE REFLECTED DEPARTING THIS AREA AT 0515 AFD PROCEEDING SOUTH- O A LAST NOTED POSITION SEVEN NAUTICAL MILES NORTH- WEST OF HOI XUAN. BEGINNING AT 0351, DRV TACTICAL VOICE ITIES REFLECTED AT LEAST FOUR DRV PILOTS ENGAGED IN A GCI ATTEMPT AGAINST FOUR LOW FLYING AIRCRAFT. WHILE IT IS POSSIBLE TO SPECIFICALLY CORRELATE THE AIR WARNING TRACKINGS WITH THE VOICE ACTIVITY, IT APPEARS THE GCI ATTEMPT AGAINST THE U.S. AIRCRAFT ENGAGED IN THE SEARCH OPERATIONS. AIR WARNING TRACKING REVEALED NO MESSAGES OF TRAH THE U.S. AIRCRAFT; HOWEVER, A DISTANCE FROM THE ENEMY TARGET OF 12 KILOMETERS (6.3 NAUTICAL MILES) WAS REFLECTED VOICE COMMUNICATIONS BY THE DRV GCI CONTROLLER AT 0357 AND 0412. THE M105 SUBSEQUENTLY WERE REFLECTED RETURNING HUC YEN AT ABOUT 0418. 900 HHHH

~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~ --DEFAULT--

CATEGORY = 2

M = 148

MESSAGE = 01175723

ZCZCDAC882DRA379HC154

DD

DE

67 11/168Z NOV
ZKZK AND HAH ILR HRL DEO
111637Z ZYHFM
TO
ZEN

~~SECRET~~ FINAL SECTION OF TWO ISHTAR 2/ [] VCK/R28-65 FOLLOW-UP NUMBER ONE AND FINAL TO USA-32 SPOT REPORTS VCK/R171-65, 060408Z AND USA-57 SPOT REPORT 2/11/ [] VCK/R118-65, 060355Z NOVEMBER 1965 AND FOLLOW-UPS THERETO. DR DOWN U.S. HELICOPTER ON 6 NOVEMBER. BEGINNING AT 0519, A SECOND GCI ATTEMPT AGAINST ANOTHER FLIGHT OF URCRAFT WAS MADE BY APPARENTLY THE SAME PILOTS WHICH PERFORMED THE EARLIER ATTEMPT. DRV AIR WARNING FACILITIES REF THE FLIGHT OF FOUR MIGS FROM THE PHUC YEN AREA INTO THE AREA BETWEEN HOA BINH AND PHULY, WHILE DRV AND [] AIR WARNING FACILITIES REFLECTED THE FLIGHT OF TWO AND POSSIBLY THREE U.S. AIRCRAFT (LATER REFLECTIONS INDICATE THIS MAY HAVE CONSISTED OF ONE HELICOPTER) FLYING FROM THE HOI XUAN AREA INTO THIS AREA. VOICE COMMUNICATIONS TO THE MIG PILOTS MADE SEVERAL PASSES AT THE U.S. AIRCRAFT UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A GROUND CONTROLLER, AND AT 0535 THE DRV PILOTS WERE INFORMED THAT THEY WERE 3 KILOMETERS (1.6 NAUTICAL MILES) FROM THE TARGET. AIR WARNING TRACKING A MERGER OF THE DRV AND HOSTILE TRACKS AT THIS TIME OVER HINH DONG (20-45N 105-28E), BUT APPARENTLY THE DRV DID NOT SIGHT THE TARGET DUE TO CLOUD CONDITIONS. THE MIG PILOTS CONTINUED TO RECEIVE HEADINGS AND INSTRU FROM THE GROUND CONTROLLER, AND AT 0535 THE TARGET WAS SIGHTED BY ONE OF THE DRV PILOTS. THE GROUND CONTROLLER IMMEDIATELY COMMANDED THE DRV PILOTS TO "SHOOT IT DOWN." AT THIS TIME ONE OF THE DRV PILOTS REPORTED THAT TARGET SPEED WAS SLOW AND THAT IT WAS A "HELICOPTER." AT 0536, ONE OF THE PILOTS (HAVING APPARENTLY MADE A PATH HELICOPTER) EXCLAIMED, "SHOT ALREADY," AND HE WAS INSTRUCTED BY A FELLOW PILOT TO "PULL UP." AT 0539, THE WHO APPARENTLY ACCOMPLISHED THE SHOOTDOWN REPORTED, "I AM REPORTING THAT ((HE)) SHOT DOWN ONE AIRCRAFT AND FOUR BAILOUT." ANOTHER DRV PILOT CONFIRMED, "ONE AIRCRAFT AND FOUR PARACHUTES." SUBSEQUENTLY, VOICE COMMUNICATIONS ATED THE MIGS REJOINING FORMATION AND RETURNING TO PHUC YEN. AIR WARNING TRACKINGS OF THE ACTUAL SHOOTDOWN THE FLIGHT OF MIGS FLYING EAST SOUTHEAST FROM 20-35N 105-28E AT 0535 (AT THE APPROXIMATE TIME OF THE TARGET SG) AND THE HELICOPTER FLYING SOUTH FROM 20-38N 105-37E AT 0532 TO A MERGER POINT OF THE TRACKS AT 20-33N 105-36 (ABOUT THE TIME THE MIG PILOT REPORTED HE HAD "SHOT ALREADY"). SUBSEQUENTLY, THE HELICOPTER CONTINUED SOUTHERLY DIRECTION TO A LAST NOTED POSITION OF 20-28N 105-38 E (18 NAUTICAL MILES WEST SOUTHWEST OF PHULY). AIR WARNING COMMUNICATIONS REFLECTED THE MIGS RETURNING TO PHUC YEN. DRV AIR WARNING FACILITIES REFLECTED AT LEAST ADDITIONAL MIG FLIGHTS AND AT LEAST ONE AND POSSIBLY TWO HOSTILE FLIGHTS IN OR NEAR THE SHOOTDOWN AREA BETWEEN 0529 AND 0745; HOWEVER, THE LACK OF TRACKING DATA AND THE LACK OF TACTICAL VOICE REFLECTIONS PRECLUDES DETERMINATION OF WHETHER OR NOT ANY AIR ENGAGEMENT OF INTERCEPT ATTEMPTS OCCURRED. ONE OF THE HOSTILE FLIGHTS WAS SIGNIFICANT IN THAT IT WAS NOTED DEPARTING THE GULF OF TONKIN APPROXIMATELY 19 NAUTICAL MILES NORTHEAST OF THA AT 0708 AND PROCEEDING NORTHWEST ON A ZIG ZAG COURSE TO A LAST NOTED POSITION OF 20-25N 105-38E (9 NAUTICAL MILES WEST OF THE AREA WHERE THE HELICOPTER WAS DOWNED EARLIER). THE COMPUTED GROUND SPEED OF 120 KNOTS FOR THE FLIGHT INDICATIVE OF A HELICOPTER (S). ONE PROBABLE JET FIGHTER, IDENTIFIED AS FRIENDLY (DRV), WAS BRIEFLY REFLECTED PARALLEL TO THE POSSIBLE HELICOPTERS

(b) (3)-P.L. 8

(b) (1)

(b) (3)-18 USC 79

(b) (3)-50 USC 40

(b) (1)

(b) (3)-50 USC 403

(b) (3)-18 USC 798

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

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~~TOP SECRET UNBRA~~

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COURSE, BUT AGAIN THE PAUCITY OF AIR WARNING TRACKINGS PRECLUDES DETERMINATION OF THE FIGHTER WAS, IN FACT, A DRV FIGHTER OF A U.SJM AIRCRAFT. AT LEAST THREE ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS OF DRV MIGS NOTED FLYING TO THE SHOOTDOWN AREA BETWEEN 1119 AND 1145, ONE FLIGHT OF AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF PROBABLE JET F5 PERFORMED A ROUND ROBIN FLIGHT TO THIS AREA FROM PHUC YEN; BETWEEN 1153 AND 1217, ONE PROBABLE MIG PERFORMED A FLIGHT; AND BETWEEN 1227 AND 1254, ONE FLIGHT OF AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF PROBABLE MIGS WERE BRIEFLY REFLECTED SOUTH FROM PHUC YEN TOWARDS THIS AREA. COMMENTS: THE FACT THAT THE DRV PILOTS PERFORMED GCI'S AGAINST TH AIRCRAFT ENGAGED IN SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS AND SUBSEQUENTLY SHOT DOWN ONE OF THESE AIRCRAFT TENDS TO SHOW AGGRESSIVE ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE DRV. THIS HAS BEEN NOTED IN THE PAST. OF INTEREST IS THAT THE DRV CONTINUED TO FLY INTO THE AREA OF THE SHOOTDOWN UNTIL AFTER THE HOURS OF DARKNESS HAD SET IN. ALSO OF INTEREST THAT THE SAME PILOTS WERE APPARENTLY INVOLVED IN BOTH GCI'S REFLECTED IN VOICE COMMUNICATIONS, BUT THE TYPE CRAFT THEY WERE FLYING IS NOT KNOWN. THE DRV IS KNOWN TO HAVE A FEW "AI" RADAR EQUIPPED MIG-17'S, BUT THE REFERENCE TO CLOUD CONDITIONS AND THE DIFFICULTY THE DRV PILOTS HAD SIGHTING THE TARGETS SUGGEST THAT THEY WERE VIS-1 7-11-18, 94-5#3 5-15, 95-218, 14-4-4, 8-9 HHHHH

NNNZCZCDRA598KA - RR

(b) (3) - P.L. 86

~~TOP SECRET UNBRA~~

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